



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## HB 297 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - March 2, 1989

By  
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John Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 297 would prohibit the manufacture, storage, selling, use or distribution of cleaning agents containing phosphorus.

Our comments on this bill do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Assuming that the rationale for HB 297 is to protect receiving waters from phosphorous-mediated eutrophication, we do not believe this measure is necessary. Given the nutrient-poor nature of oceanic waters into which most drainage occurs and the vigorous coastal mixing, to all extents and purposes phosphorus input will be inconsequential. The only places where that would not be true would be in confined bays and estuarines, which constitute a very minor fraction of the state waters, or in fresh water lakes, which are not a concern in Hawaii.